

WE CLAIM:

1. A method of porting a directory number within a local telephone service area served by a distributed switch call manager (DSCM), comprising steps of:
 - a) selecting at least one of a media gateway (MG) and a line gateway (LG) through which to serve the directory number; and
 - b) re-provisioning the DSCM to address call control messages associated with the ported number to the at least one of the MG and the LG.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of re-provisioning comprises a step of a changing number translation table in the DSCM.
3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the step of changing a number translation table comprises a step of associating the ported number with a signaling path to the at least one of the MG and the LG.
4. A method of expanding an area for local number portability in which directory numbers, served by first and second distributed switch call managers (DSCMs) of a broadband transport network (BTN), are ported from the first to the second DSCM, comprising a step of establishing a signaling path through the BTN from the first DSCM to one of a media gateway (MG) and a line gateway (LG) located in an area served by the second DSCM, wherein the one of the MG

and the LG is used to provide service to subscribers having directory numbers ported to the area served by the second DSCM.

5. A method as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a step of changing number translation tables in the first DSCM to associate the ported number with the one of the MG and the LG.
6. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the at least one of the MG and the LG is enabled to exchange control messages with more than one DSCM.
7. A method as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a step of provisioning the at least one of the MG and the LG to exchange control messages with more than one DSCM.
8. A method of porting a directory number of a telephone service subscriber whose directory number is served by a distributed switch call manager (DSCM) of a broadband transport network (BTN), comprising steps of:
 - a) provisioning a line gateway (LG) to exchange signaling messages with the DSCM;
 - b) provisioning a subscriber line between the LG and the subscriber's ported location; and
 - c) provisioning the DSCM to direct call control messaging associated with the subscriber's directory number to the LG.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the step of provisioning the LG comprises steps of:
- a) establishing a signaling path through the BTN between the DSCM and the LG; and
 - b) provisioning the LG to send call control messages over the signaling path to the DSCM.
10. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the step of provisioning the DSCM comprises a step of changing directory number translation tables in the DSCM so that directory numbers ported to the LG are associated with a signaling path through the BTN to the LG.
11. A method of porting a directory number and all service features associated with a telephone service subscriber whose directory number is served by a first distributed switch call manager (DSCM) of a broadband transport network (BTN) to a subscriber line in an area served by a second DSCM of the BTN, comprising steps of:
- a) provisioning a line interface (LI) at a service switching point to which the directory number is to be ported and connecting a subscriber line for the ported directory number to the line interface;
 - b) provisioning a signaling path from the first DSCM to the LI through a media gateway (MG) connected to the service switching point; and

- c) provisioning the first DSCM to use the signaling path for call control messaging associated with the directory number to be ported.
12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the step of provisioning the signaling path comprises a step of selecting an MG adapted to route call control messages to more than one DSCM.
13. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the step of provisioning the signaling path comprises a step of changing a number translation table in the DSCM to associate the ported number with the signaling path.
14. A method of enabling local number and service feature portability within a telephone service area served by at least two central offices (COs) having respective control modules (CMs), comprising steps of:
- a) decommissioning each of the CMs and installing a distributed switch call manager (DSCM) connected to a broadband transport network (BTN);
 - b) provisioning the DSCM to control components of each of the at least two COs by routing control messages through media gateways (MGs) connected to the respective COs; and
 - c) porting a directory number served by one of the at least two COs, to a subscriber line served by another of the at least two COs by changing number translation tables in the DSCM used to

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direct call control messages to the CO to which the directory number is ported.

15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the step of provisioning the DSCM comprises steps of:
- a) establishing signaling paths through the BTN between the DSCM and the MGs of the respective COs; and
 - b) provisioning the DSCM with a number translation table used to select signaling paths through which call control messages are transmitted for ported directory numbers.
16. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the at least two COs are selected in accordance with an expected demand for local number portability.
17. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein an area in which the local number and service feature portability is enabled is enlarged, comprising steps of:
- a) decommissioning another CM in of another Central Office (CO) in the local telephone service area; and
 - b) provisioning the DSCM to control components of the other CO by routing call control messages through media gateways connected to the other CO.